

(b) I lay on the Table of the Sabha a statement giving the requisite information in respect of accidents in India, U.S.A. and U.K. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 46.]

Information about other countries is not available.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: While drawing the attention of the hon. Minister to passenger fatalities in India and the United States of America, may I enquire if this highly unfavourable rate between the two countries is due to the inferior quality of aircraft in this country and to the operational inefficiency here?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No, Sir. I may first point out to the hon. Member that figures for the United States of America and the United Kingdom for the year 1953 and 54 are not available. That makes a lot of difference in the percentage of accidents, because to our knowledge, a few Comets and Constellations with serious accidents and a large number of casualties fatalities were involved in them. That makes the difference in the percentage of accidents regarding India and the United Kingdom. As regards the efficiency of our staff, it is inferior to none in the world.

As regards the inferior type of aircraft, I may again point out, Sir, that Comets and Constellations are regarded as the most up-to-date aircraft, and the accidents to Comets and Constellations of the United Kingdom are well known. Therefore, to infer that our accidents are due to inferior type of aircraft is not borne out by facts.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I take it, Sir, that the efficiency in operation and the type of aircraft in this country have improved as to create confidence in the minds of passengers using them?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is like that.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the widely held belief that the life of our Dakotas is far beyond what would entail safety, has the Government gone into the entire question to

find out as to whether our Dakotas still have quite a long time to go?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Experts have gone into this question—experts not only of this country but of other countries as well, and I may also point out that aircraft do not go old—they rather become obsolete when the particular aircraft and its parts are not manufactured. When the manufacture of that particular type of aircraft is stopped by the manufacturing company, and when the parts and spares are not available, that aircraft goes out of operation. That does not apply to Dakotas because spares are available and the expert opinion is that they can safely run up till 1960 and even beyond.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that while the Dakota manufacturers appointed the Hindustan Aircraft as the overhauling agents for the South-East Asia it was laid down as a condition that the Government of India do not ground their Dakota aircraft in both civil and military use, up to 1960?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have already said that the experts hold the view that they can safely run till 1960 and even beyond that with normal overhauling.

Shri G. S. Singh: May I know how the figures of accidents compare—pre-nationalisation and post-nationalisation?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is too short a period. Moreover, I am afraid I have not worked pre-nationalisation figures. As hon. Members are aware, there was only one serious accident after nationalisation, not more than that.

SHIVA RAO COMMITTEE

*197. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Shiva Rao Committee on Employment Exchanges have been considered by Government; and

(b) the main recommendations of the Committee that have been accepted by Government?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Shiva Rao Committee are under examination in consultation with the concerned Ministries of the Government of India and no final decision has been taken so far on any of the recommendations.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: When is the consideration likely to be completed?

Shri V. V. Giri: The consideration is going on—I cannot state at present when it is likely to be completed.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What is the reason for the delay though high officials of the Labour Ministry were in contact with this Committee in the course of its enquiry?

Shri V. V. Giri: There is no question of any delay. The report has come and is before the Labour and other Ministries of the Central Government and we do not want any delay that could be avoided.

Shri P. C. Bose: Is it a fact that the Committee has not paid much attention to the sub-regional exchange offices which are really responsible for recruitment and placing of the unemployed?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is premature to say so; the report is under the consideration of Government.

Shri P. C. Bose: The report has been circulated.

Shri V. V. Giri: It has given due consideration to the regional offices.

CATERING ON RAILWAYS

*198. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Brandon and Co. Ltd., caterers, have given notice that they propose closing down their business;

(b) the number of stations in which Messrs. Brandon & Co. Ltd., caterers, were having their catering arrangement on the Central Railway;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present caterers were asked to take up the work; and

(d) whether any fresh applications by notification were invited from others also?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Ten.

(c) Wherever the need for European style catering continues to be felt the existing Refreshment Room contractors have been asked temporarily to cater European style food also.

(d) Yes.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या यह सच नहीं है कि इस्टर्न रेलवे तथा सेंट्रल रेलवे के कई मुख्य स्टेशनों पर एक ही कंटरैक्टर का कार्य अपने नाँकरों की तरफ से और खुद आज २० वर्षों से चल रहा है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : आनररीबल मंत्री ने यह सवाल ब्रूडन एंड कम्पनी के बारे में किया था। और किस कंटरैक्टर का वह जिक्र कर रहे हैं यह मुझे मालूम नहीं है।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि ब्रूडन एंड कम्पनी जो कि जबलपुर में काम कर रही थी उसको उसी आदमी को दिया गया है जिसका कि कंटरैक्ट दूसरी जगह पर भी है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : मैं खास तौर पर नहीं कह सकता हूँ। रेलवे ने एक आम पालिसी बनायी है और उस जनरल पालिसी के मुताबिक सब काम किया गया है।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि ब्रूडन एंड कम्पनी ने जिस वक्त अपना कार्य सौंपा उस वक्त जब वह कार्य दूसरों को सौंपा गया तो क्या टेंडर नहीं बुलाये गये थे ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : रेलवे में टेंडर बुलाने की कोई पालिसी है नहीं।